

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )



Senate  
Office of the Secretary

'13 JUL -3 P12:43

SENATE

S.B. No. 344

RECEIVED BY: *ja*

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Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill seeks the need for specialized health services for Filipino women through the establishment of regional breast care centers. The centers, under the supervision of the Secretary of Department of Health, shall carry out several programs such as breast protection, breast surveillance, breast imaging and breast diagnostic and surgery. The centers shall be equipped with the necessary tools and devices to effectively implement the programs. In cooperation with the local government units and other government agencies in their respective areas, an extensive information campaign shall be sustained in order to raise the breast cancer awareness of women in all regions of the country.

Finally, this measure mandates the coordination between regional and local education officials to guarantee that female high school students of both private and public schools are well informed about the disease to increase the rates of awareness, prevention and early detection.

For these reasons, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
LOREN LEGARDA  
Senator

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**AN ACT**  
**PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BREAST CARE CENTERS IN**  
**EVERY REGION NATIONWIDE, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND**  
**FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled*

1       **SECTION 1.** A breast care center, known in this Act as "Center", shall be  
2 established in every region of the country to spearhead the fight against breast  
3 cancer. It shall be a new department of existing regional hospitals of the National  
4 Government. Should there be no regional hospital in the region, the Center shall be  
5 attached to any district hospital in the region, which is most accessible to the highest  
6 number of constituents.  
7

8       **SECTION 2.** The Centers shall be provided with such equipment, tools,  
9 implements, devices, apparatus and personnel as may be necessary for them to carry  
10 out multiple programs such as Breast Protection, Breast Surveillance, Breast  
11 Imaging, Breast Diagnostic and Surgery, Breast Cancer Chemotherapy and Breast  
12 Cancer Awareness and Protection.  
13

14       **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of the Department of Health shall issue such  
15 guidelines, orders or rules and regulations as may be necessary for the  
16 establishment of a Center in every regional hospital of the National Government or  
17 in a district hospital to be designated by the Secretary of Health for being the most  
18 accessible to the highest number of constituents in a region where there is no  
19 existing regional hospital; for the acquisition of the necessary equipment, tools,  
20 implements, devices and apparatus for the hiring of personnel, for the fixing of  
21 reasonable fees for the services of the Centers and to carry out the provisions and  
22 purposes of this Act.

1           **SECTION 4.** The Centers shall, in coordination with local government units,  
2 local health offices, the Philippine Information Agency and other government  
3 agencies, spearhead a sustained and extensive information and awareness campaign  
4 within their respective region to raise the level of awareness of its constituents  
5 especially the women sector on the ill, causes and symptoms of the disease for its  
6 early detection and prevention.

7  
8           **SECTION 5.** The Centers shall coordinate with regional and local education  
9 officials to ensure that female high school students in both public and private  
10 schools are taught the pertinent information about the disease and are trained to  
11 habitually self-examine themselves as a part of the regular secondary curriculum.

12  
13           **SECTION 6.** To fully implement the provisions of the Act, the Secretary of  
14 Health shall immediately include in the Department's program the  
15 operationalization of the Centers, the funding for which shall be included in the  
16 annual General Appropriations Act.

17  
18           **SECTION 7.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days upon its publication in  
19 at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

20  
21           Approved,